

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VIENTI 02277 201131Z

51

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 200932Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8166

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

SECDEF

CINCPAC

USSAG NKP

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 2277

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, LA

SUBJECT: REDUCTION OF LAO ARMED FORCES AND INTEGRATION
OF IRREGULARS

REFERENCE: VIENTIANE 2052

1. IN THE COURSE OF A TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA TODAY, I EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE LETTER I UNDERSTOOD HE HAD WRITTEN TO THE FAR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF DIRECTING THAT INTEGRATION OF THE LIF AND THE OVERALL REDUCTION OF THE LAO ARMED FORCES BE ACCELERATED. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT HE HOPED TO MEET WITH A GROUP OF SENIOR OFFICERS OF FAR LATER THIS WEEK AND WOULD STRESS TO THEM THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHED TO THE RAPID, PHASED REDUCTION OF THE ARMY AND TO RATIONALIZING THE FORCE STRUCTURE IN MR II. HE SAID THAT DURING HIS WEEK-END VISIT TO LUANG PRABANG, HE HAD TALKED TO MR I DEPUTY MILITARY REGIONAL COMMANDER, GENERAL CHAO SINH, AND HAD ASKED CHAO SINH TO COME TO VIENTIANE ON A REGULAR BASIS TO ENERGIZE THE FAR STAFF ON THESE ISSUES. HE SAID HE PLANNED TO BRING CHAO SINH DOWN TO FAR HEAD-QUARTERS FROM MR 1 IN THE NEAR FUTURE BUT THAT THIS TRANSFER WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR WHEN GENERAL CHAO SINH COULD RETURN TO VIENTIANE WITH HIS FAMILY.

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2. COMMENT: I AM REASSURED BY THE ACTIVE PERSONAL INTEREST THE PRIME MINISTER IS TAKING IN THIS IMPORTANT MATTER AND BELIEVE THAT GENERAL CHAO SINH COULD MAKE A SUCCESSFUL CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS ACCELERATING THE REQUIRED STAFF WORK, AS HE IS ONE OF THE FEW WELL-ORGANIZED AND DYNAMIC OFFICERS IN THE ARMY.
WHITEHOUSE

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS ADDED PER S/S-O - ELTZ.

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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